
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 450
Author: Carrillo (D), et al.
Amended: 9/4/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 7/7/25
AYES: Arreguín, Becker, Durazo, Limón
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-7, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public social services: support for older and aging immigrants

SOURCE: Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Aging (CDA) to oversee a stakeholder process to support the development of findings and recommendations on how to best support older and aging immigrants in California, regardless of their immigration status and to inform the stakeholder process, CDA shall establish a panel or modify an existing panel.

Senate Floor Amendments of 9/4/25 are technical amendments from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Older Americans Act, which promotes the well-being of Americans 60 years old and above through services and programs designed to

meet their needs. (42 USC 3001 et seq.)

- 2) Establishes, within the Older Americans Act, the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and requires states to establish and operate a Long-Term Care Ombudsman program for the purpose of identifying, investigating, and resolving complaints that may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, or rights of residents of long-term care facilities. (42 USC 3058(g))
- 3) Establishes the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, which establishes the CDA and sets forth its duties and powers, including, among other things, entering into a contract for the development of information and materials to educate Californians on the concept of “aging in place.” (Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 9100 et seq.)
- 4) Requires the Secretary of California Health and Human Services (CalHHS), in coordination with the Director of CDA, to lead the development and implementation of the Master Plan on Aging. (WIC 9850)
- 5) Requires benefits provided under the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) program to be equivalent to the benefits provided under the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) program. (WIC 18941)

This bill:

- 1) Makes legislative findings and declarations regarding the importance of meeting the needs of aging Californians, including the needs of older and aging immigrants, regardless of immigration status.
- 2) Requires CDA to oversee a stakeholder process to support the development of findings and recommendations on how to best support older and aging immigrants in California, regardless of their immigration status.
- 3) Provides that to inform the stakeholder process, CDA shall establish a panel and if appropriate, may modify an existing panel for these purposes.
- 4) Provides that CDA may contract with academic research entities to commission expert research and testimony to supplement the stakeholder process and support the development of findings and recommendations.
- 5) Requires the panel to invite stakeholders and subject matter experts, including representatives from CDSS, clinics, researchers, housing advocates, trusted

community partners, and nonprofit organizations to participate in the stakeholder process. As appropriate, the costs of the panel and the stakeholder process may be reduced by in-kind or other contributions from third parties.

- 6) Provides that during the stakeholder process, CDA and members of the panel, shall consider issues including, but not limited to, affordability and guaranteed basic income, access to social services and housing, and access to health care services, including specialty care and language access.
- 7) Provides that the first meeting of the panel shall be held no later than 120 days after the funding becomes available for the purposes of this section.
- 8) Provides that upon completion of the stakeholder process, but no later than July 1, 2028, the panel shall issue findings and recommendations to CDA and CDSS on the most effective ways to implement policies and programs to support older and aging immigrants in California, regardless of immigration status.
- 9) Provides that on or before December 31, 2028, CDA and CDSS shall jointly present a report including the findings and recommendations provided by the panel to the Legislature.
- 10) Defines “older and aging” as an adult 60 years of age or older.
- 11) Provides that these provisions shall be implemented upon appropriation by the Legislature.
- 12) Provides these provisions shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2029, and as of that date are repealed.

Comments

According to the author. “California is home to 10.6 million immigrants, representing 22 percent of the nation’s foreign-born population and making up about 27 percent of the state’s residents. Roughly a third of the state’s workforce is made up of immigrants. As this population ages, especially in the face of a challenging federal climate, support for immigrant communities is more important than ever. Aging immigrants often face significant barriers to accessing Page 2 of 8 government services, which impacts their ability to retire with dignity and continue supporting their families and communities.

“AB 450 aims to address these challenges by establishing a task force within the Department of Aging in conjunction with the California the Department of Social

Services to develop recommendations to better supporting aging immigrants. California cannot lead on equity and aging if we continue to leave behind the very people who helped build our economy, care for our families, and sustain our communities. AB 450 is a step toward honoring their lifelong contributions and ensuring they are not forgotten.”

Master Plan for Aging. California is projected to be home to 11.4 million people age 60 and older by 2040. This is nearly twice as many people age 60 and older as there were in 2010. In January 2021, the Newsom Administration published its Master Plan for Aging, which is intended to be a ten year blueprint for state government, local government, the private sector, and philanthropy to prepare the state for the coming demographic changes and to “continue California’s leadership in aging, disability, and equity.” The Master Plan for Aging outlines five goals, twenty-three strategies, and over 100 initiatives. The five goals of the Master Plan are: housing for all ages and stages; health reimaged; inclusion and equity, not isolation; caregiving that works; and affording aging.

The January 2025 Fourth Master Plan for Aging Annual Report highlights the progress that has been made in achieving the goals of the Master Plan for Aging. The report notes that progress was made on all 95 initiatives from the past two years of the Master Plan for Aging implementation. Listed among the achievements from 2024 were:

- Delivering Housing – making progress to reduce chronic homelessness through programs such as Community Care Expansion Program and Home Safe Program.
- Expanding Medi-Cal Health Insurance – 47,000 older adults and people with disabilities with the lowest incomes benefited from the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal program in the last 12 months.
- Advancing Emergency Preparedness – the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services partnered with California Disability Services Association and the Department of Rehabilitation to develop California’s first-ever Emergency Preparedness Guide specifically for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Training Caregivers – CalGrows trained 30,884 direct care works and the In-Home Supportive Services Career Pathways Program through CDSS trained 58,505 unique learners.

- Combating Loneliness – the Friendship Line California assisted 117,673 callers in seven languages.
- Closing the Digital Divide – to reduce isolation, CDA provided a combined 89,000 digital devices and related training to older adults and Californians with disabilities, who are among those most in need of social connection to remain healthy.
- Groundbreaking LGBTQIA+ Study – CDA and its partners administered California’s first survey of LGBTQIA+ older adults, gathering baseline data to better understand and serve this population.
- Improving Mobility – \$51.7 million was awarded to over 100 nonprofit organizations and public agencies for projects to improve mobility for and meet special transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities.
- Supporting Home and Community Living – 2,152 people aged 65 and older were helped to transition out of skilled nursing.
- Strengthening Retirement for All – the CalSavers retirement savings program, for workers who previously had no way to save for retirement, reached \$1 billion in assets. More than 50,000 employers have established 519,000 savers fund accounts since a 2019 pilot.

These highlight a wide range of achievements across multiple populations of older Californians and addressing a multitude of aspects of their lives. However, contained within the January 2025 annual report is only one program specifically targeted to immigrants – CAPI. CAPI is a state-funded program to provide monthly cash benefits to aged, blind, and disabled non-citizens who are ineligible for SSI/SSP. California is home to over 10 million immigrants. This bill seeks to establish a task force specifically focused on how to best support older and aging adults within this population.

California Department of Aging. Under CalHHS, CDA administers programs that serve older adults, adults with disabilities, family caregivers, and residents in long-term care facilities throughout the state. CDA administers programs serving older adults through contracts with local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). These agencies provide a wide array of services on a community level to adults age 60 and over. AAA programs often include long-term care ombudsman services, nutrition services, caregiver support and respite, Medicare counseling, legal referrals, transportation, and case management. There are 33 AAAs across the state

and each county is required to have an AAA, so some agencies serve multiple counties.

The Master Plan on Aging has six stakeholder advisory committees currently working to address the needs of California's aging population. These committees are as follows:

- Implementing the Master Plan on Aging in California Together Stakeholder Committee
- Equity Advisory Committee on Aging and Disability
- California Aging and Disability Research Partnership
- Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee
- California Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council
- Alzheimer's Disease and Related Conditions Advisory Committee

CDA works to support all older Californians regardless of immigration status. There is currently no specific committee or council that addresses the specific needs of older immigrants currently living in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2415 (Carrillo, 2023) would have, upon an appropriation, expanded eligibility for the CAPI program to all eligible individuals regardless of immigration status, and waived the requirement that an applicant must apply and be denied SSI/SSP before being eligible for benefits under CAPI. The bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis:

Unknown one-time General Fund costs, likely hundreds of thousands, for the CDA and the CDSS to oversee the stakeholder process and support the development of findings and recommendations.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/29/25)

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (source)

Access Reproductive Justice
ACLU California Action
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-southern California
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Immigrant Policy Center
Courage California
Having Our Say Coalition
Healthy Contra Costa
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Moonbow
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange Justice Center
Vision Y Compromiso
Western Center on Law & Poverty

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/29/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-7, 6/2/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Gallagher, Hadwick, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Ellis, Flora, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Ta

Prepared by: Heather Hopkins / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
9/8/25 21:10:24

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